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# Law of the Sea Country Study

## *Thailand*

State Dept. review completed

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FOREWORD

The Law of the Sea Country Studies are prepared to support the NSC Interagency Task Force on the Law of the Sea. The countries to be included in the series are selected on the basis of priorities suggested by the chairman of the Task Force.

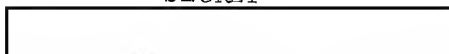
Each study has two parts. Part I is an analysis of the primary geographic, economic, and political factors that might influence the country's law of the sea policy, the public and private expressions of that policy,   
 Part II provides basic data and information bearing on law of the sea matters.

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This study was prepared by the Office of Basic and Geographic Intelligence.  support was provided by the Central Reference Service. The study was coordinated within the Directorate of Intelligence and with the Department of State. Comments and questions may be directed to the LOS Country Studies Working Group, 

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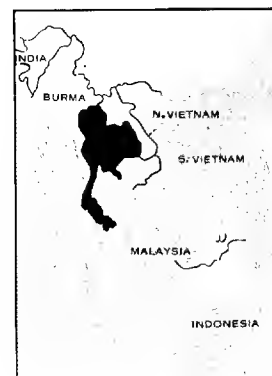
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## THAILAND

## Part I - Law of the Sea Analysis

A. SUMMARY

Thailand, a largely shelf-locked developing coastal state with distant-water fishing and maritime interests, views negotiation at the Third Law of the Sea Conference as the preferred course to achieve timely solutions to law of the sea problems.



It will have difficulty, however, reconciling its support for the rights of fellow developing coastal states, including neighboring straits states, with its economic and national security concerns. Of primary concern to the Thai are freedom of fisheries and navigation beyond the territorial sea and adequate protection of unimpeded transit through and over international straits. Thailand supports a narrow territorial sea (i.e., 12 n. miles wide) and a coincident exclusive fisheries zone. With tin resources and encouraging prospects of commercial quantities of petroleum on its continental shelf, Thailand favors coastal state jurisdiction over a broad economic zone but has not committed itself on the outer limit. Concerned about distant-water fishing restrictions, Thailand takes the position that coastal state jurisdiction in an economic zone should be limited to the exploration and exploitation of seabed mineral resources. Additionally, as a potentially zone-locked state, Thailand is likely to oppose any zone regime capable of affecting freedom of navigation such as coastal state control of vessel-source pollution.

Thailand supports the concept of an international regime to control the exploration and exploitation of deep seabed resources. Its regime views include revenue sharing, with special consideration given to developing states; protection of coastal state mineral resource rights; promotion of scientific and technical training for underdeveloped country personnel; and, in addition to granting mining licenses to state and private contractors, provision for the international authority itself to conduct mining operations in the international zone.

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## B. FACTORS INFLUENCING LOS POLICY

### Special Geographic Features

Thailand is shelf-locked except for a narrow band off its west coast in the Andaman Sea and the northern part of the Strait of Malacca. Here, the edge of its continental shelf lies 25 to 75 n. miles offshore at a depth of 200 meters, and the continental margin extends as much as 170 n. miles off the Thai mainland to a depth of about 2,500 meters at the theoretical median boundary with India. Off the remainder of the west coast the Thai shelf abuts on the Indonesian shelf in the northern part of the Strait of Malacca. Everywhere off the Thai mainland the strait is more than 150 n. miles wide. In the Gulf of Thailand, which is less than 200 meters deep throughout, Thailand is shelf-locked by the Khmer Republic (Cambodia), South Vietnam, and Malaysia.

### Uses of the Sea

Mineral Resources -- Thailand is one of the world's largest tin producers, ranking behind Malaysia, Bolivia, and possibly the USSR. To strengthen its position, Thailand has been moving out onto its continental shelf with large dredges as the more accessible land deposits show signs of depletion. The transition to large offshore mining projects off peninsular Thailand--the main onshore producing area--has been supported by foreign capital and is expected to gain momentum in the next few years. The application of higher technology in Thailand's tin industry began about 1971, when the first cutter-suction dredge was put into operation near the northern end of the Strait of Malacca by the Thailand Exploration and Mining Co. (TEMCO), a joint venture with Union Carbide, a U.S. enterprise. Other U.S. interests include Alcoa and Bethlehem Steel, which have joined with U.K. investors in Associated Mines, a new venture that has leased offshore tin properties and was expected to have two large bucket dredges in operation by late 1973. Although production could decrease during the transition to further offshore mining, exploration has been thorough and the long-term prospects are that Thailand will continue to strengthen its position as a leading tin producer.

Tenneco and Union Carbide have found traces of oil and gas in the Gulf of Thailand about 375 miles south of Bangkok but well within the shelf area claimed by Thailand. Commercially exploitable deposits, however, have yet to be confirmed.

In June 1972, Thailand reportedly had under consideration amendment of its oil exploration and exploitation regulations contained

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in the Petroleum Act of 1971 to include concession of offshore areas to the 1,000-meter isobath. As of December 1972, ten firms held concessions to 23 offshore exploratory blocks--19 in the Gulf of Thailand and 4 in the Andaman Sea. Two blocks seaward of the 200-meter line in the Andaman Sea had not been offered for concession.

Living Resources -- Thailand is the leading Southeast Asian fishing nation in the size of the domestic catch. Fishing plays an important role in the economy and is the source of a large portion of animal protein in the Thai diet. The annual catch rose from 0.25 to 1.59 million tons between 1960 and 1971, and the share of marine fish in the total catch rose from 70% in 1962 to 93% in 1971, largely due to the increased use of motorized trawlers.

Almost 80% of the marine catch comes from the coastal waters of the Gulf of Thailand, including those off neighboring states. Indications are that the gulf is overfished, however, and the Thai fishing fleet,<sup>1</sup> which has been significantly increased in the last decade, has expanded its distant-water operations into the Andaman and South China Seas. Major fishing ports include Phuket and Ranong on the Strait of Malacca- Andaman Sea coast, as well as Bangkok and other ports on the Gulf of Thailand.

Disputes with its neighbors have also increased as the Thai search for new fishing grounds. Frequently, they have been apprehended in waters claimed by Burma, the Khmer Republic, Malaysia, Indonesia, and South Vietnam. The most heated disputes have been with Burma and the Khmer Republic. While the controversy with Malaysia has been largely resolved, the dispute with Indonesia has intensified since the latter's extension of its exclusive fisheries zone to 50 n. miles in late 1972.

Marine Transportation -- International trade is vital to the Thai economy; its major trading partners are Japan and the United States. In 1972 the combined value of imports and exports amounted to \$2.5 billion, equivalent to more than one-third of GDP. Virtually all of the imports and about 80% of the exports passed through the port of Bangkok.

Thailand relies heavily on foreign vessels to haul its maritime trade despite its dependence on marine transportation. In 1970, the Thai merchant fleet<sup>2</sup> carried less than 3% of the nation's total seaborne trade of 16.6 million tons. Thailand pays almost \$300

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<sup>1</sup>More than 35,000 small craft, including over 5,000 motorized units, and three oceangoing trawlers.

<sup>2</sup>An oceangoing fleet of 26 ships of 1,000 gross register tons or over, including nine tankers, plus at least 25 smaller ships used primarily in the coastal trade.

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million annually in freight costs to foreign carriers. The government is now advocating a larger and more modern merchant fleet to lessen this dependence on foreign shipping and to conserve foreign exchange.

Thailand's port facilities are inadequate for the thriving economy. Only three ports, all on the Gulf of Thailand, have facilities for oceangoing vessels; one, Si Racha, is an offshore pipeline facility for large tankers. The government has proposed development of Phuket at the north end of the Strait of Malacca into a deepwater port and naval base.

### Political and Other Factors

Thailand is an active member of the United Nations and a leader in the promotion of regional cooperation in Southeast Asia. For more than two decades it has adhered to a strong pro-Western policy and has had close ties with the United States, including a mutual security commitment through the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), a bilateral Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations, and agreements on military assistance and economic and technical cooperation. The two countries have cooperated over a wide range of Asian and world problems.

In recent years, however, Thailand has taken a more independent stance and broadened its contacts with its neighbors and other countries, including several Communist nations, among them the People's Republic of China. Thailand views its SEATO membership chiefly in terms of the defense commitments of the United States, thus, Thailand exerts greater efforts to promote the goals of other regional organizations it regards as being more truly Southeast Asian. Thailand is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which also includes Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines. In June 1973, it attended ASEAN's seventh meeting that focused on a possible 10-nation "zone of peace, freedom and neutrality." The zone, suggested by Malaysia in 1971, would include the five ASEAN nations plus North and South Vietnam, Laos, the Khmer Republic, and Burma.

Thailand's relations with Laos, Malaysia, and Singapore are generally good, although problems do exist with Laos. Relations with other neighboring states are correct but cool.

### C. LAW OF THE SEA POLICY

#### Territorial Sea

Because of its distant-water fishing interests and its concern for free access of U.S. naval ships to Thai waters, Thailand supports 12 n. miles as the maximum outer limit of the territorial sea. The

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Thai are unlikely to agree with those Latin American countries that envision a plurality of "territorial sea" regimes out to 200 n. miles in which innocent passage would apply to the first zone out to 12 n. miles, and freedom of navigation, overflight, and laying of submarine cables and pipelines--but not freedom of fisheries--would apply to the 12- to 200-n. mile zone. Thailand signed and ratified the 1958 Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, and in 1966 it extended its territorial sea to 12 n. miles from a previous 6-n. mile limit.

### Straits

Thailand supports free passage through and over international straits that would be overlapped by a 12-n. mile territorial sea extension by one or more nations. Indonesia and Malaysia have actively sought Thai support of their straits position since announcing in November 1971 that the Malacca-Singapore Straits were not international straits and that transit of the passageway was limited to innocent passage. They also have attempted to involve Thailand in certain straits-related activities, such as cooperation in the establishment of a pollution-free zone at the northern end of the Strait of Malacca. Thailand, however, has indicated that innocent passage through the straits would be "inadequate" for its "individual geographic circumstances" and would adversely affect its maritime trade and economic development. The Thai have seriously considered the construction of a sea-level ship canal or an oil pipeline across peninsular Thailand as a bypass to part of the Malacca-Singapore Straits traffic.

Thailand believes its long-range security interests are best promoted by supporting the U.S. presence until there is real peace in Southeast Asia. Accordingly, it is concerned about a straits agreement based on the innocent passage doctrine, which is susceptible to abuse through subjective interpretation by straits states and could reduce the mobility of US forces in the area. There probably will be no sharp change in this view unless Thai leaders perceive a radically accelerated U.S. disengagement from Southeast Asia. In this regard, Thailand will be studying carefully the U.S. attitude toward SEATO.

### Archipelagos

Thailand has not taken an official position on the archipelago issue, which involves the attempts of neighboring Indonesia and some other archipelagic states to assert sovereignty over the waters enclosed by baselines connecting the outermost points of the outermost islands of the archipelago. Indonesia sees Thailand in opposition because it is not an archipelagic state and is concerned

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with fishing in waters that otherwise would be denied under the archipelago concept. However, Indonesia has indicated it may be able to develop a "common view" with Thailand on this issue.

#### Continental Shelf

Thailand is a party to the 1958 Convention on the Continental Shelf. In mid-1973 the Thai Government officially announced its claim to the shelf in the Gulf of Thailand, a claim that overlaps parts of the Cambodian and South Vietnamese shelf claims. All three countries have granted petroleum concession blocks in the Gulf, but companies holding concessions in the disputed zones are hesitant to drill or explore until the disputes are resolved.

Agreements on the shelf and deeper seabed boundaries in the Strait of Malacca and Andaman Sea have been reached with Indonesia and Malaysia, but the northern part of the boundary with Indonesia and the boundary with India, both in the Andaman Sea, have yet to be determined.

#### Coastal State Jurisdiction Beyond the Territorial Sea

Thailand supports the right of a coastal state to extend its jurisdiction over a broad area beyond its territorial sea but maintains the extension should apply only to the exploration and exploitation of the mineral resources of the seabed. The Thai view is that the establishment of an economic zone should be without prejudice to the freedom of fishing, navigation, and overflight beyond the limit of the territorial sea.

In 1966, Thailand proclaimed a 12-n. mile exclusive fishing zone coincident with its territorial sea claim. As a distant-water fishing state, Thailand supports a maximum limit of 12 n. miles for an exclusive fishery zone; it is opposed to any broad exclusive economic zone that would restrict its fishing operations off other coastal states. It also may have strong reservations concerning the species approach of the U.S. fisheries proposal, having stated that the U.S. proposal favors the coastal state fisheries to the detriment of distant-water fishing states.

As to the breadth of the economic zone, Thailand maintains the right of every coastal state to choose between the depth and the distance criterion, subject to regional boundary arrangements. It favors a depth limit of more than 200 meters to compensate for the loss of rights it now claims under the exploitability criterion of the 1958 Convention of the Continental Shelf. It has not committed itself on the precise depth criterion but probably will opt for at least 1,000 meters. If the LOS Conference adopts a distance criterion, Thailand would prefer 200 n. miles.

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### Deep Seabed

Thailand supports the concept of an international regime responsible for the development and management of the seabed resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and endorses the establishment of international machinery to regulate, coordinate, supervise, and control the exploration and exploitation of the seabed resources. The Thai feel that the international organization should be empowered to:

- a. grant licenses for all seabed exploration and exploitation activities in the international zone;
- b. undertake exploration and exploitation activities on its own or through state or private contractors;
- c. receive all revenues and other benefits from the extraction of minerals, and distribute the benefits equitably, with special consideration given to the interests and needs of the developing countries;
- d. regulate production of resources to minimize price fluctuation of raw materials in the world market;
- e. arrange for the scientific and technical training of personnel from developing countries;
- f. take measures to prevent the degradation of the marine environment, including pollution control; and
- g. ensure the timely dissemination of scientific information on the seabed to all states, without discrimination.

### Marine Pollution

Thailand has stated that all nations have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment, particularly to protect areas beyond their national jurisdiction from pollution emanating from all sources, including land-based sources, within their national jurisdiction. However, concerned with pollution standards that could adversely affect freedom of navigation and impede the utilization of its seabed mineral resources, Thailand has been cautious on this issue. Basically, it opposes the concept of a coastal state pollution jurisdiction regime such as the 200-n. mile pollution zone advocated by some developing coastal states. If such a zone were adopted, Thailand would find itself totally zone-locked.

Thailand favors international environmental standards for continental shelf activities, such as petroleum exploitation; for mining

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in the deep seabed; and for regulation of vessel-source pollution. Thailand feels that international standards for shelf activities should not be so high as to restrict exploitation of mineral resources. It also feels that the international standards should be minimum in the sense that coastal states could set higher standards. On the issue of vessel-source pollution, however, Thailand is likely to oppose any proposal allowing coastal states to set higher standards. Because of its aging merchant marine, Thailand may also oppose port states setting higher vessel-source pollution standards.

Thailand attended the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) Marine Pollution Convention, concluded at London in November 1973, which set forth international standards to deal with vessel-source pollution but did not settle the problems of who may set and enforce the standards and where. It is a party to the 1958 Convention on the High Seas, which provided for all states to prevent oil pollution from ships, pipelines, and seabed exploitation activities but did not make any provision for the discharge of this obligation. Thailand is not a party to any of the four major oil pollution international conventions (Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties, Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, and Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage).

Thailand's Petroleum Act of 1971, which regulates the exploitation, duration, relinquishment, bidding, royalties, and work obligations for petroleum exploration and production, contains only one reference to environmental safety. The reference calls upon concessionaires conducting petroleum operations to take "appropriate measures...to prevent pollution" and, in the event that pollution occurs, "the concessionaire shall take immediate action to combat such pollution." Pollution is not mentioned in the sections of the Petroleum Act dealing with causes for concession revocation.

#### Peaceful Uses of the Sea

Thailand has indicated that the deep seabed should be limited exclusively to peaceful uses, but its position on the issue of prohibiting the use of the coastal zone seabed for military purposes is uncertain. In July 1972, Thailand co-sponsored a draft resolution in Subcommittee III of the UN Seabed Committee calling for cessation of nuclear weapons tests likely to contribute to the contamination of the marine environment. In the December 1972 UN General Assembly voting on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, Thailand abstained on the paragraph calling for the elimination of all military bases from the area, and abstained from voting on the resolution as a whole. Within the last year, Thailand has sought the formation of a collective

action group of Southeast Asian nations. In 1973 it attended the seventh meeting of the ASEAN, primarily to discuss the possibilities of a 10-nation "zone of peace, freedom and neutrality" in Southeast Asia. Although concerned with indications of U.S. disengagement from Southeast Asia, Thai leaders by and large, however, continue to view U.S. presence in the area and the SEATO commitment of the United States as the backbone of Thailand's security. They probably will support U.S. efforts to prevent prohibition of the military use of the seabed throughout the continental margin.

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## Part II - Background Information

### GEOGRAPHY:

World region: Southeast Asia and Pacific  
Category: coastal  
Bordering states: Burma, Laos, Khmer Republic (Cambodia),  
Malaysia  
Bordering bodies of water: Gulf of Thailand, Strait of  
Malacca, Andaman Sea  
Bordering semiencllosed sea: Andaman Sea  
Bordering straits: Strait of Malacca  
Area of continental shelf: 75,100 sq. n. mi., shared with  
Indonesia, Khmer Republic, South Vietnam  
Area to 200 n. mi. limit: 94,700 sq. n. mi., shared with India,  
Indonesia, Khmer Republic, South Vietnam  
Area to edge of continental margin: 94,700 sq. n. mi.  
Coastline: 2,000 mi.  
Land: 198,000 sq. mi.  
Population: 38,438,000

### INDUSTRY AND TRADE:

GDP: \$7.4 billion (1972 est. in current prices); \$200 per capita  
Major industries: agricultural processing, textiles, wood and  
wood products, cement, tin mining; world's third or fourth  
largest tin producer (behind Malaysia, Bolivia, and possibly  
the U.S.S.R.)  
Exports: \$1,063 million (f.o.b., 1972); rice, corn, rubber, tin,  
cassava, kenaf  
Imports: \$1,484 million (c.i.f., 1972) excluding U.S. military  
imports; machinery and transport equipment, textiles, fuels and  
lubricants, base metals, chemicals  
Major trade partners: exports - Japan, U.S., Singapore, Hong Kong,  
Netherlands, Malaysia; imports - Japan, U.S., West Germany,  
U.K.; about 1% or less trade with communist countries  
Merchant marine: 26 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 148,700  
GRT; 16 cargo, 9 tanker, 1 specialized carrier

### MARINE FISHERIES:

Catch: 1.6 million metric tons (93% marine), about 4% of GDP;  
exports 32,000 tons, \$22 million (1971)  
Economic importance: significant national, major local  
Ranking: 1 regional  
Nature: coastal and distant-water  
Other fishing areas: Burma, Indonesia, Khmer Republic, Malaysia,  
South Vietnam  
Species: mackerel, shrimp and other shellfish

MARINE FISHERIES (cont'd):

Marine fisheries techniques: primarily artisanal; significant increase in modern techniques, including use of deep-sea trawls, purse seines, gill nets

Other countries fishing off coast: Gulf of Thailand fished by Japan, Khmer Republic, Malaysia, Republic of China, South Korea, South Vietnam

PETROLEUM RESOURCES:

Petroleum: proved recoverable reserves - 0.5 millions of 42-gal. bbl. (0.1 million metric tons) onshore; production - 0.1 millions of 42-gal. bbl. onshore (1971)

Natural gas: proved recoverable reserves and production - negligible

NAVY:

Ships: 161 including 7 principal combatants, 83 patrol, 18 mine warfare, 37 amphibious ships and crafts, 16 auxiliary and service craft

GOVERNMENT LEADERS:

King Phumiphon Adundet; Sanya Thammasak, Prime Minister; Sukit Nimmanhem, Deputy Prime Minister; Charunphan Itsarangkuna Ayuthaya, Minister of Foreign Affairs

MULTILATERAL CONVENTIONS:

Agreement for the Establishment of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Council, 1948

Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf, 1958

Geneva Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas, 1958

Geneva Convention on the High Seas, 1958

Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone, 1958

Convention on the International Hydrographic Organization, 1963

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 1963

Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand, Delimitation of Continental Shelf Boundaries in Northern Part of Straits of Malacca, ratified July 1973

BILATERAL CONVENTIONS:

Indonesia-Thailand, Delimitation of Continental Shelf Boundary in Northern Part of Strait of Malacca and in Andaman Sea, ratified April 1973



PRESENT OCEAN CLAIMS:\*

<u>Type</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Terms</u>	<u>Source/Notes</u>
Territorial Sea	1923	No specific provisions but international law	Thai Navigation Act of BE 2456 (1923)
	1958	6 n. mi.	
	1966	12 n. mi.	Royal Proclamation Oct. 6, 1966 <i>Party to Territorial Sea Convention (July 11, 1968); Royal Gazette Oct. 18, 1966, Vol. 83, p. 92</i>
Continental Shelf			<i>Party to Continental Shelf Convention (July 11, 1968) Revised Mineral Act</i>
Exclusive Fishing	1966	12 n. mi.	
Customs	1926	"Within the limits of the Kingdom", i.e. 12 n. mi.	Customs Law BE 2469
Criminal Jurisdiction	1956	"Within the limits of the Kingdom", i.e. 12 n. mi.	Criminal Code BE 2499 Section 4-10
Civil Jurisdiction	1934	"Within the limits of the Kingdom", i.e. 12 n. mi.	Civil Procedures Code BE 2477
Straight Baselines	1959	Historic Bay	Announcement
	1970		<i>See Limits in the Seas No. 31</i> Announcement

\*Principal source: Limits in the Seas, National Claims to Maritime Jurisdiction, State Dept./INR, March 1973, and Revisions.

ACTION ON SIGNIFICANT UN RESOLUTIONS:

- Moratorium Resolution In favor  
(A/RES/2574 D, XXIV, 12/15/69)  
*Pending establishment of international regime, States and persons are bound to refrain from exploiting resources of or laying claim to any part of the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.*
- LOS Conference In favor  
(A/RES/2750 C, XXV, 12/17/70)  
*Convene in 1973 a Conference on Law of the Sea to deal with establishment of international regime for the seabed and ocean floor, and enlarge Seabed Committee by 44 members and instruct it to prepare for the conference draft treaty articles embodying international regime.*
- LOS Conference, Timing and Site Adopted w/o vote  
(A/RES/3029 A, XXVII, 12/18/72)
- Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace Abstain  
(A/RES/2992, XXVII, 12/15/72)  
*Called upon littoral and hinterland states of Indian Ocean area, permanent members of the Security Council and other major maritime users of Indian Ocean to support concept that Indian Ocean should be zone of peace.*
- Landlocked/Shelf-Locked Study Resolution Abstain  
(A/RES/3029 B, XXVII, 12/18/72)  
*Called for study of extent and economic significance, in terms of resources, of international area resulting from each proposal of limits of national jurisdiction presented to Seabed Committee.*
- Peruvian Coastal State Study Resolution In favor  
(A/RES/3029 C, XXVII, 12/18/72)  
*Called for study of potential economic significance for riparian states, in terms of resources, of each of the proposals on limits of national jurisdiction presented to Seabed Committee.*
- Permanent Sovereignty over Natural Resources Abstain  
(A/RES/3016 XXVII, 12/18/72)  
*Reaffirmed right of states to permanent sovereignty over all their natural resources, wherever found.*

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MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO LOS INTERESTS:

ADB . . . . .	Asian Development Bank
ASEAN . . . . .	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASPAC . . . . .	Asian and Pacific Council
ECAFE . . . . .	Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East
FAO . . . . .	Food and Agriculture Organization
IAEA . . . . .	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICAO . . . . .	International Civil Aviation Organization
IDA . . . . .	International Development Association (IBRD affiliate)
IFC . . . . .	International Finance Corporation (IBRD affiliate)
IHB . . . . .	International Hydrographic Bureau
ILO . . . . .	International Labor Office
ITU . . . . .	International Telecommunication Union
SEATO . . . . .	Southeast Asia Treaty Organization
UN . . . . .	United Nations
UNESCO . . . . .	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
WHO . . . . .	World Health Organization
WMO . . . . .	World Meteorological Organization
Colombo Plan . . . . .	Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic Development in South and Southeast Asia
Seabed Committee . . . . .	United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Seabed and Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction

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ASSEMBLY



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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE  
SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND THE  
LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION  
SUB-COMMITTEE

Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia,  
New Zealand, Peru, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand: draft resolution

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor Beyond  
the Limits of National Jurisdiction,

Recalling the suggested statement of views submitted to Sub-Committee III at the  
8th meeting of that Sub-Committee,\*/

Further recalling the resolution on the subject of nuclear testing adopted by the  
United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, as well as Principle 26 of the  
Declaration on the Human Environment adopted by the same Conference,

Acting in furtherance of the principles of the partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty,  
Having noted the concern of the nations and peoples of the Pacific at, and their  
opposition to, the conduct of the nuclear weapon tests in that region,

Bearing in mind its obligation to propose legal norms for the preservation of  
the marine environment and the prevention of marine pollution;

1. Declares that no further nuclear weapons tests likely to contribute to the  
contamination of the marine environment should be carried out;
2. Requests its Chairman to forward this resolution to the Secretary-General of  
the United Nations for referral to the appropriate United Nations bodies,  
including the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

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\*/ (A/8421, Annex V)

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UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



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1 December 1972

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-seventh session  
FIRST COMMITTEE  
Agenda item 36

RESERVATION EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES OF THE SEA-BED AND  
THE OCEAN FLOOR, AND THE SUBSOIL THEREOF, UNDERLYING THE HIGH SEAS  
BEYOND THE LIMITS OF PRESENT NATIONAL JURISDICTION AND USE OF  
THEIR RESOURCES IN THE INTERESTS OF MANKIND, AND CONVENING OF A  
CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Australia, Bahrain, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Denmark, Egypt,  
Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Kenya,  
Khmer Republic, Kuwait, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania,  
Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan,  
Philippines, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Swaziland, Uganda,  
United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela,  
Yugoslavia, Zaire and Zambia: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 2467 (XXIII) of 24 December 1968, 2750 (XXV) of  
17 December 1970 and 2881 (XXVI) of 21 December 1971,

Having considered the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the  
Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction (the  
Committee) on the work of its sessions in 1972,

Noting with satisfaction the further progress made towards the preparations  
for a comprehensive international conference of plenipotentiaries on the law of  
the sea including, in particular, acceptance of a list of subjects and issues  
relating to the law of the sea,

Reaffirming that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and  
need to be considered as a whole,

Recalling its decision, in resolution 2750 C (XXV) of 17 December 1970,  
to convene a conference on the law of the sea in 1973,

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English  
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1. Reaffirms the mandate of the Committee set forth in resolutions 2467 (XXIII) and 2750 (XXV), as supplemented by the present resolution;
2. Requests the Committee, in the discharge of its mandate in accordance with resolution 2750 C (XXV) of 17 December 1970, to hold two further sessions in 1973, one of five weeks at New York, beginning in early March, and the other of eight weeks at Geneva, beginning in early July, with a view to completing its preparatory work and to submit a report with recommendations to the General Assembly at its twenty-eighth session and, in the light of the decision taken under operative paragraph 5 below, to the Conference;
3. Requests the Secretary-General to convene the first session of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (the Conference) at New York for a period of approximately two weeks in November/December 1973, for the purpose of dealing with organizational matters including the election of officers, adoption of the agenda of the Conference and the rules of procedure, establishment of subsidiary organs and allocation of work to these subsidiary organs;
4. Decides to convene the second session of the Conference, for the purpose of dealing with substantive work, at Santiago, Chile, in April/May 1974, for a period of eight weeks, and such subsequent sessions, if necessary, as may be decided by the Conference and approved by the General Assembly, bearing in mind that the Government of Austria has offered Vienna as site for the Conference for the succeeding years;
5. Decides further to review at its twenty-eighth session the progress of the preparatory work of the Committee and, if necessary, to take measures to facilitate completion of the substantive work for the Conference and any other action it may deem appropriate;
6. Authorizes the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, to make such arrangements as may be necessary for the efficient organization and administration of the Conference and the Committee, utilizing to the fullest extent possible the resources of staff at his disposal, to render to the Conference and the Committee all the assistance they may require in legal, economic, technical and scientific matters and to provide them with all relevant documentation of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency;
7. Decides that it will consider any further matters requiring decision in connexion with the Conference, including the participation of States in the Conference, as a matter of priority at its twenty-eighth session and that the provisional agenda of that session shall include an item entitled "Reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes etc.";
8. Invites the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental organizations to co-operate fully with the Secretary-General in the preparations for the Conference and to send observers to the Conference;

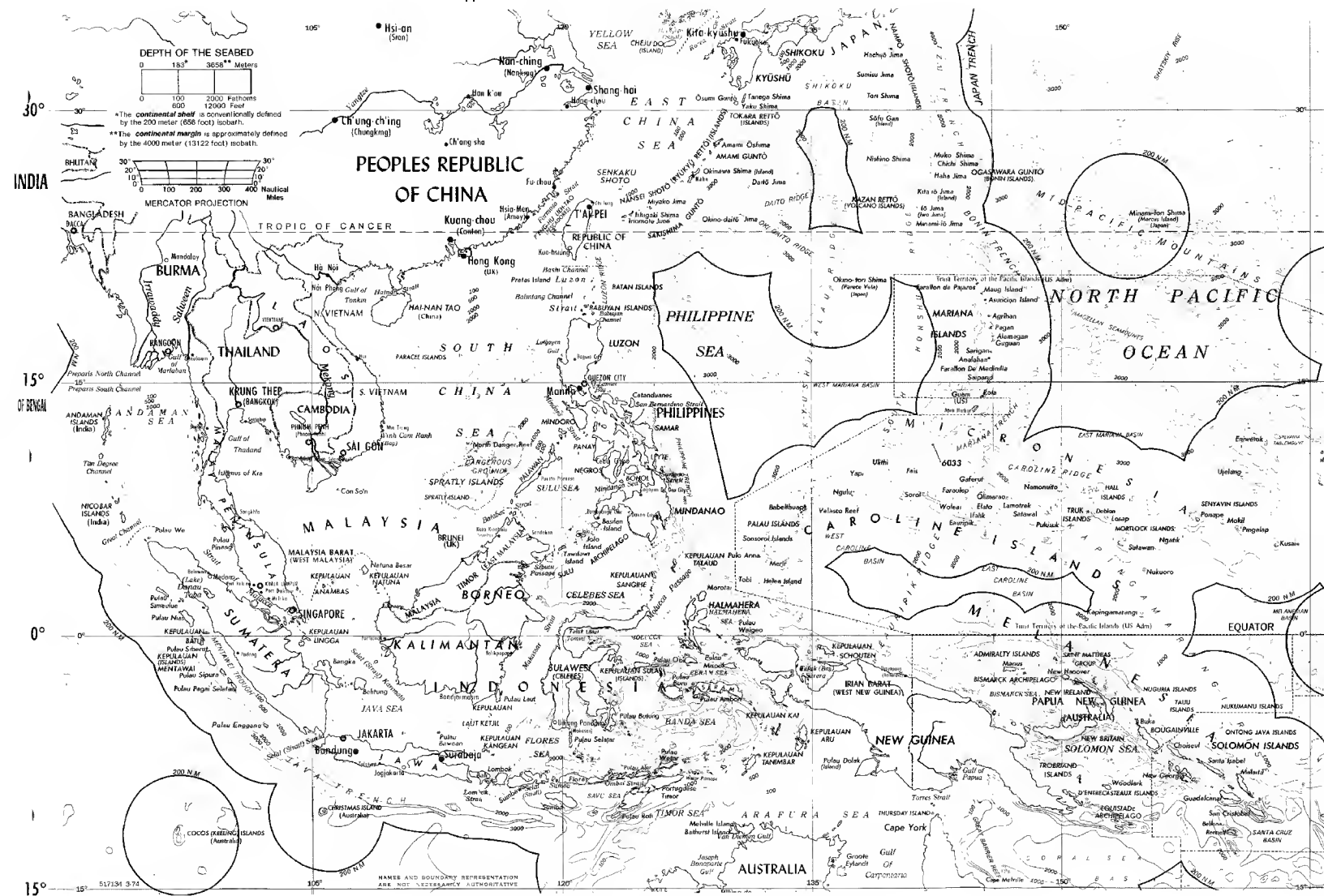
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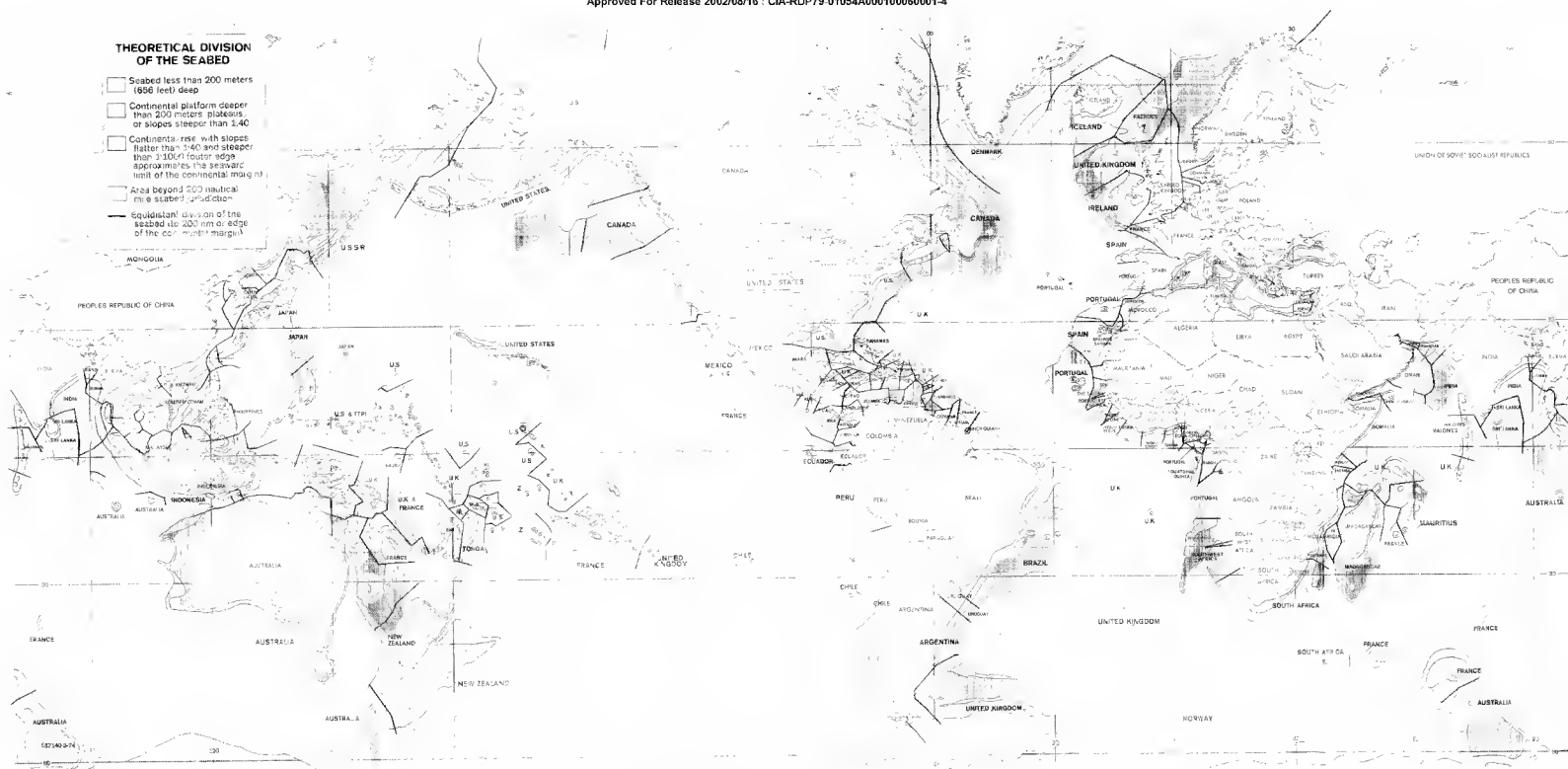
9. Requests the Secretary-General, subject to approval by the Conference, to invite interested non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to send observers to the Conference;

10. Decides that the Conference, its main Committees shall have summary records of their proceedings.

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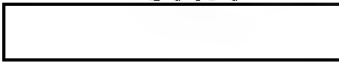






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